



**Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey**  
**Representing New York's 26th Congressional District**

January 28, 2002

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Portals II  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Suite TW-A-325  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: File No. NSD-L-01-159  
CC Docket No. 96-98

Via Email:

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to express my support for the New York State Public Service Commission's request for delegated authority to modify the area code in Roscoe, New York, outside the context of area code relief. My office has been involved with this issue for a number of years, working with local residents and government officials to allow Roscoe to use the same area code, (845), as every other municipality in Sullivan County.

The small hamlet of Roscoe, located in the northwestern section on Sullivan County and bordering Delaware County, is the only part of Sullivan County that is not included in the (845) area code. When area codes were first implemented, all of Sullivan County used the (914) area code, including Roscoe. Because of telephone company mergers, Roscoe was unfortunately changed to (607). The (914) area code has subsequently been switched to (845) for area code relief, at which time many residents tried unsuccessfully to have Roscoe switched to the new area code, along with the rest of the county.

Roscoe has very close economic and political ties with the rest of Sullivan County. For economic development purposes in both Roscoe and the rest of Sullivan County, it is extremely important that Roscoe be linked with the county and identified as being part of it by uniting them both under the same area code.

Roscoe has struggled with identification and economic development problems for many years. Because of the (607) area code in Roscoe, people unfamiliar with the area believe that Roscoe is near the Binghamton area, more than an hour further west on Route 17. For many New York City residents, this can make a significant difference when considering traveling to or doing business in Roscoe. People trying to find this town need to know it is in Sullivan County so that they realize Roscoe's close proximity to NYC. Including Roscoe in the (845) area code is important to the perception of visitors and business people.

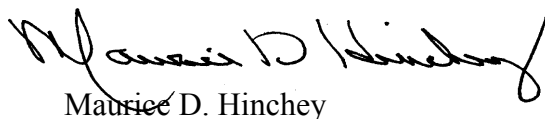
Roscoe has been dubbed "Trout Town, USA." Tourists, particularly fisherman, from around the country try to call and visit Roscoe, which has been named "Best Outdoor Sports Town in New York State" by Sports Afield magazine. National television programs have featured Roscoe "in beautiful Sullivan County," drawing interest from sportsmen around the country. Unfortunately, when people call directory assistance, they are often told that the hamlet is not in Sullivan County, due to the misunderstanding created by the different area code.

Roscoe relies heavily on tourism and cannot afford this confusion. The negative consequences on the area's tourist industry from this problem can be mitigated by changing the area code in Roscoe to (845), consistent with the rest of Sullivan County.

Many residents of Roscoe, as well as local businesses, have contacted me requesting this change. I share their belief that this change of area code would be beneficial for economic development in Roscoe and would be a considerable improvement in the convenience of phone service in the hamlet. I urge the Federal Communications Commission to approve the request by the New York State Public Service Commission for delegated authority to modify the current area code for Roscoe. Thank you for your timely attention to this issue and your consideration of my comments.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice D. Hinchey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maurice" being more prominent.

Maurice D. Hinchey

cc: Ms. Carmell Weathers, Federal Communications Commission  
Hon. Jacob E. Gunther III, Assemblyman, 98th Assembly District  
Hon. Raymond N. Pomeroy II, Chairman, Sullivan County Legislature  
Hon. Patricia Pomeroy, Supervisor, Town of Rockland  
Ms. Jacquie Leventoff, President/CEO, Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce  
Mrs. Miriam Stone, President, Roscoe-Rockland Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Cheryl A. McCausland, Deputy County Attorney, Sullivan County